

New Hampshire  
**State Board of Education**  
Academy for Science and Design  
486 Amherst Street  
Nashua, NH 03063  
Minutes of May 8, 2019 Meeting

**AGENDA ITEM I. CALL TO ORDER**

The regular meeting of the State Board of Education was convened at 9:02 a.m. at the Academy for Science and Design (ASD), 486 Amherst Street, Nashua, New Hampshire. Drew Cline presided as Chairman.

Members present: Kate Cassady, Cindy Chagnon, Drew Cline, Chairman, Helen Honorow, Ann Lane, and Phil Nazzaro. Sally Griffin was not in attendance due to a previous commitment. Frank Edelblut, Commissioner of Education, and Christine Brennan, Deputy Commissioner of Education were also present.

**AGENDA ITEM II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE followed by Student-led Tour and Presentations**

Daniel, a student at the Academy for Science and Design, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**AGENDA ITEM III. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ms. Megan Tuttle, President of NEA New Hampshire, submitted to the Board and Commissioner Edelblut copies of postcards from NEA members in opposition to Learn Everywhere. She also submitted a letter from Lisa Witte, Superintendent of Schools for the Monadnock Regional School District (SAU 93).

**AGENDA ITEM IV. CONSENT AGENDA**

A. Meeting Minutes of April 11, 2019

MOTION: Ann Lane made the motion, seconded by Phil Nazzaro, to table approval of the minutes of April 11, 2019 meeting of the New Hampshire Board of Education.

VOTE: The motion was approved by unanimous vote of the Board with the Chairman abstaining.

## **AGENDA ITEM V. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

### **A. Girls in STEAM Program**

Ms. Amanda Bastoni, Director, Nashua Technology Center North introduced Erin Knoetig, an Art Teacher in Nashua and her students. Ms. Knoetig and the students provided the State Board with an overview of this pilot program. The Nashua Career Technical Education (CTE) department developed the Girls in STEAM pilot program and it is the first-in-the-state high school to offer a drone photography course. The curriculum is expensive; however, with community support, guidance from teachers, and a Department of Education grant for \$10,000, they have been able to partner with the Emergency Management Response team in Nashua and drone companies in Nashua and Merrimack to move forward with the “Drones in Technology” course. The hope is to have it become “open-sourced” so as to provide free access to other schools in New Hampshire as well as across the country. They also plan to apply for additional grant money. It was noted that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has expressed interest in supporting the project as well.

The students gave a presentation that included sharing what they have learned as far as growth mindset applicability to life, working as a team, photography techniques, and how to adapt. They also discussed the many applications where what they have learned would also be useful such as traffic, real estate, search and rescue, etc.

Ms. Helen Honorow inquired about credits, competencies, and success in reaching out to English Language Learner (ELL) students. The credits will be for art and will provide students the knowledge they would need should they choose to pursue licensing with the FAA. A basic outline of competencies has been created and more funding is needed to make sure there is alignment across the country for easy deployment of this class. At this time there is only one ELL student enrolled in the course.

Ms. Kate Cassady expressed her excitement for this project and stated these ladies were great role models.

### **B. MicroSociety Academy Charter School (MACS) Charter Renewal**

Ms. Jane Waterhouse, NHDOE, Charter School Administrator introduced Amy Bottomley, MACS School Director and Tom Dougherty, MACS Board of Trustee/Treasurer and explained they are before the State Board to request a charter renewal and an amendment to their charter. Ms. Waterhouse noted that the review team unanimously recommended renewal of the charter as the school has met its goals and objectives and is successful in student proficiency averages with students meeting or exceeding state proficiency standards. The school is working diligently to ensure it is sustainable and the review team felt the

work being done will result in sustainable school programs. The most pressing challenges were special education services, fundraising, and purchasing a building to lower operating costs and ensure sustainability. MACS is currently in discussions with the property owner and financing institutions to purchase the property.

Ms. Lane noted the option for families to give time or monetary contributions is admirable. She also inquired about some of the Individual Education Plan (IEP) students struggling with the testing. Ms. Bottomley said students often come to MACS from other school districts below grade level. MACS works with these school districts to ensure students are getting the services they need to reduce the grade level gap and achieve yearly growth. There are limitations and variances in how each school district chooses to address special education. There are 14 Nashua students with IEPs attending this fall.

Ms. Honorow asked about the voluntary contracts. These contracts have nothing to do with tuition and the term “contract” may not be correct. This allows parents to contribute their time rather than donations. These are voluntary and not all parents participate.

Ms. Honorow asked for an update on the purchase of a new building discussed at a previous meeting. She was told the purchase of the adjacent building is on hold for now. The goal is to purchase the current building and make it sustainable.

Regarding student interview comments about recognition of more holidays, Ms. Bottomley explained all school holidays are currently based on the state calendar. The request was made by a student seeking to celebrate the variety of ethnicities and religions of MACS students.

Commissioner Edelblut and Ms. Waterhouse will follow up for clarification of the Page 19 recommendation regarding due process and report back to the State Board.

Ms. Cindy Chagnon complemented the Academy for working effectively with parents.

Ms. Ann Lane suggested the State Board receive an update more often than every five years as information provided may also be valuable to other charters in the state.

Chairman Cline noted he would like to follow up and meet with them separately regarding how they are able to achieve success with a small sample size producing scores that are consistently well above proficient.

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the following motion, seconded by Ann Lane, pursuant to Ed 318.12 and 318.03 that the State Board of Education authorizes the renewal of the Charter of the MicroSociety Charter School of Southern New Hampshire.

VOTE: The motion was approved by unanimous vote of the Board, with the Chairman abstaining.

C. MicroSociety Academy Charter School (MACS) Charter Amendment

Ms. Honorow inquired as to the purpose of the name change and whether a legal opinion was obtained. The wording “becoming a nonprofit” is confusing. The Foundation entity already exists and the name change will clear up confusion when applying for grant funding.

MOTION: Ann Lane made the following motion, seconded by Phil Nazzaro, that the State Board of Education approves the name change from MicroSociety Academy Charter School of Southern New Hampshire to MicroSociety Academy Charter School Foundation.

VOTE: The motion was approved by unanimous vote of the Board with the Chairman abstaining.

**AGENDA ITEM VI. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

A. Computer Science and Kindergarten Minimum Standards (Ed 306 various sections)

The Public Hearing opened at 11:30 a.m. and closed at 12:00 p.m. with no public testimony.

**AGENDA ITEM VII. REPORTS, NEW BUSINESS and/or DEPARTMENT UPDATE**

A. Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) Ten-Month Extension Request for SNHU’s Ed 612.18 Secondary Mathematics Program –

Ms. Ashlee Stetser, NHDOE Administrator, Bureau of Educator Preparation & Higher Education explained that this program is scheduled to renew in 2020 and pushing out the date to January 31, 2021 would allow for all three programs to be reviewed at once. This will also allow SNHU the opportunity to collect additional data for secondary mathematics information. The request was unanimously accepted at the February 2019 Council for Teacher Education (CTE) meeting.

**MOTION:** Ann Lane made the following motion, seconded by Cindy Chagnon, to grant a 10-month extension through January 31, 2021 for Southern New Hampshire University's Ed 612.18 Secondary Mathematics program to more efficiently align with two other programs that expire on that date.

**VOTE:** The motion was approved by unanimous vote of the Board with the Chairman abstaining.

**B. Rivier University's 2<sup>nd</sup> Priority Progress Report.**

Ms. Stetser provided a brief history of this item and reported that the CTE reviewed both reports and found everything required for completion was done extremely well. A full review is scheduled for September 2019. She commended everyone at Rivier for their efforts working with the CTE to ensure success.

Ms. Honorow requested the State Board receive copies of the reports.

**C. Plymouth State University's 1<sup>st</sup> Priority Progress Report**

Ms. Stetser reported that conditional approval conditions for the five programs require the submission of two reports. The first was due January 31, 2019 and submitted on time. Two reviewers found the submission outstanding and in line with CTE expectations. The second report is due on July 31, 2019. A full review will be conducted in spring of 2020.

Chairman Cline requested the State Board receive copies of these reports and that the Board receive regular updates.

**D. Approval of Saint Anselm College's New Computer Science Program**

Ms. Stetser introduced Laura Wasielewski of St. Anselm and explained a previously submitted proposal for a computer science program was reviewed and unanimously approved by the CTE and the request today is for approval of the Computer Science Program up through 2021. This is the first program of this type in New Hampshire and is scheduled for review with all programs in April of 2021. Ms. Wasielewski noted that a review of the program recommended it be the benchmark for computer science.

Ms. Chagnon expressed her appreciation for the development of a very good program.

Ms. Honorow asked about credentialing pathways for certification and it was explained that this program is a traditional pathway for obtaining the computer science endorsement.

**MOTION:** Cindy Chagnon made the following motion, seconded by Phil Nazzaro, that the State Board of Education approves St. Anselm College New Teacher Education Preparation Program in Computer Science Ed 612.33 and 507.32 up through the next unit review which will take place in March or April of 2021.

**VOTE:** The motion was approved by unanimous vote of the Board with the Chairman abstaining.

E. Antioch University of New England (AUNE) One-Year Extension Request for AUNE's Eight Educator Preparation Programs

Ms. Stetser introduced Dr. Susan Brier of Antioch University and explained this request is due to the ill health of one of the key faculty members. The CTE has agreed and unanimously recommends that the State Board approve an extension from August 2020 to August 2021.

**MOTION:** Cindy Chagnon made the following motion, seconded by Ann Lane, that the State Board of Education grants a one-year extension to all eight Antioch University of New England Teacher Preparation courses from August 2020 to August 2021.

**VOTE:** The motion was approved by unanimous vote of the Board with the Chairman abstaining.

F. Commissioner's Update

Commissioner Edelblut provided updates on the following:

- New department staff:
  1. Dan White, Director of Human Resources
  2. Grant Bosse, Director of Communications
  3. Eric Frauwirth, Administrator, Bureau of Career Development
  4. Dean Graziano, Work Based Learning
- The Perkins plan will be filed at the end of month and one objective is to deal with disparities in between CTE programs.
- The School Safety Resource Center webpage created with Homeland Security has been launched to provide resources for schools. Commissioner Edelblut thanked Deputy Commissioner Brennan for her work on this project.

- The Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) waitlist has been completed and 100% are now being provided services. This is a milestone in terms of the continued restructuring of VR.
- Student Transition Services counselors will be going out into schools to work with students who are VR eligible to engage and connect them with services to provide positive trajectories and transitions.
- At the Family Support Conference held at the Mt. Washington Hotel the Department of Education table saw a lot of activity and interest.
- A Preschool Development grant for \$3.8 million was received to develop a strategic plan for preschool development in the state.
- Work on Social Studies standards continues to move forward.
- In preparation to begin the process of looking at English Language Arts and Mathematic standards, our assessment vendor has been doing creative things around assessment and performance assessment and we are determining the best way to obtain input from curriculum and instruction providers to ensure a global perspective on what is working in these areas.
- On April 1<sup>st</sup> the University of New Hampshire Faculty Senate voted and released a statement that they were not going to pursue Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) accreditation. They provided a white paper explaining their concerns with CAEP in a supportive way.
- The University System of New Hampshire is moving towards a test-optional admissions policy that will no longer require SAT or ACT for admission. The Faculty Senate report is still being read and reviewed.
- Work with AIR continues through development of performance assessments that can be executed on the platform currently used for testing. This is a more complex performance assessment scheduled for pilot in January 2020. Having both assessments allows us to correlate information and verify the reliability of results.

Ms. Honorow asked for clarification regarding Commissioner Edelblut's update about reducing the access disparity of CTE programs. She asked if the new Administrator, Eric Frauwirth, will be working on different ways of getting students to these centers or is he working on creating some alternative program.

Commissioner Edelblut explained that the Bureau is looking at many different options on how to structure the CTE programs to make them accessible to more students. It is early stages in this project; there is still a lot to look at and work through. Ms. Honorow strongly suggested that school districts and schools be involved early on as her concern is that programs and rules are getting developed without this input.

Ms. Honorow brought up her concerns about Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) loss of funding and its impact on programs for adults and students with disabilities. Commissioner Edelblut explained the ongoing discussions over VR

funding and making sure these funds are only going to programs that support individuals with disabilities.

Ms. Honorow then asked about where the review of the English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics standards fell on the newly developed standards review matrix. Commissioner Edelblut was not sure precisely where they fell on the matrix, but agreed it was time for them to be reviewed. He noted that the ELA and Mathematics standards review will be a more difficult one. Ms. Honorow reiterated her request that the Department includes educators, people in the field, and established stakeholder groups early on in the process.

Ms. Honorow asked if New Hampshire is still planning on using the SAT as the junior year assessment. Commissioner Edelblut stated that it continues to be New Hampshire's accountability assessment for the federal government.

Ms. Honorow expressed her concern about feedback the State Board has received about students being over-tested and whether or not adding an additional assessment was necessary. Commissioner Edelblut explained that for the long-term he feels there is a better way to assess students and this decision will have to be made with the schools.

Ms. Honorow thanked the commissioner for his report.

Ms. Chagnon inquired about the Social Studies standards review and whether or not the New Hampshire Historical Society has been involved in the review. Chairman Cline responded that they have been a member of the review group from the start of the process.

Ms. Chagnon asked about the preschool development grant monies and if they would be used to improve existing programs. Commissioner Edelblut responded that there is no programmatic funding with the grant and the monies are to be used to study current programs in the state and to improve their delivery; consolidating and streamlining to offer them in locations where families are already be receiving services from other agencies and/or organizations. Deputy Commissioner Brennan, who is very involved with the grant, explained that it is a one year planning grant that will include a needs assessment.

Ms. Cassidy thanked Commissioner Edelblut for his report and asked if he could provide one at every meeting.

## **AGENDA ITEM VIII. OPEN BOARD DISCUSSIONS and WORKING LUNCH**

### **A. Learn Everywhere (LE) Discussion and Update**

Chairman Cline clarified that there have been no changes since the last meeting.

Commissioner Edelblut noted that the extension requested has been granted by the Joint Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules (JLCAR), thus avoiding the scheduling of a special meeting of the State Board. Chairman Cline added that the extension was also requested as more revisions and feedback were expected. Commissioner Edelblut added that there have been concerns raised about competencies and the idea has been discussed adding Educational Learning Opportunity (ELO) coordinators and credentialed educators in those domain areas to the LE program review team, and a review is being conducted to make sure there are no legal structural problems.

Ms. Chagnon commented that some of the language seems to be vague and Commissioner Edelblut explained this language is broad in order to include a broad range of programs that have expressed an interest in LE. Chairman Cline added that this empowers the State Board to say, "Here is what we want to see..." for each specific program.

Mr. Nazzaro asked for clarification between qualification to instruct and expertise in the subject matter domain. The discussion included Ms. Honorow's concerns regarding who would determine the competencies and how they will be assessed for each LE program. The Department of Education staff will review and work with the LE program to ensure competencies and other details are met prior to meeting with the State Board. Chairman Cline referred to Ed 1403.02 which states that minimum requirements must be met. Ms. Chagnon expressed her concern about school districts establishing their own competencies. Commissioner Edelblut explained that schools have to align with state-adopted competencies and standards. The LE programs are going to meet the minimum standards to give pathway opportunities for students to find another way to put together competencies needed to succeed and attain a New Hampshire high school diploma.

Ms. Honorow stated she is still concerned about whether or not Superintendent Cascadden's concerns about competencies have been addressed as well as concern that others might have been denied an opportunity to provide input. Chairman Cline reminded her that today was set up as a State Board discussion session. These rules are still in draft form after changes have been made based on received feedback. This is an opportunity for State Board to discuss and suggest changes. State Board members are welcome to submit changes or comments to Chairman Cline or Commissioner Edelblut.

Ms. Honorow reminded Commissioner Edelblut of his comments regarding no cost to the school districts for LE programs and stated her belief that this is not true and they will incur costs. Commissioner Edelblut noted the Department will be helping districts by defraying costs they might otherwise incur if they had to go through their own vetting process. The Department is providing them with resources. Ms. Honorow stated her respectful disagreement.

Ms. Honorow stated there has been feedback received from legislators and noted the vote scheduled to happen soon to fix the Learn Everywhere legislation. She questioned why there was a difference in this process compared to the process for the Manifest Educational Hardship rules where the State Board put a hold on them until the legislative process was complete. Commissioner Edelblut explained that the difference may be due to the fact that the regulations and rules were inconsistent with the law. The issue today deals with a law already on the books.

Chairman Cline reiterated this process has received feedback from superintendents, principals, teachers, included lots of discussions with practitioners, and many concerns were incorporated into the rules that were developed over several months. Practitioner feedback was incorporated and substantial changes were made to produce this draft document and it was not done willy-nilly.

Ms. Honorow wanted to express her concern on a statement she thought was made by Ms. Bottomley from the MicroSociety Academy that all IEP students are a year behind. Chairman Cline, for the record, stated that having an IEP does not mean a student is a year behind.

#### **AGENDA ITEM IX. OLD BUSINESS**

There was no Old Business.

#### **AGENDA ITEM X. NONPUBLIC SESSION**

There was no Nonpublic Session

#### **AGENDA ITEM XI. ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the following motion, seconded by Phil Nazzaro, to adjourn the meeting at 2:00 p.m.

VOTE: The motion was approved by unanimous vote of the State Board with the Chairman abstaining.



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Secretary